

**DECLARATION, PETITION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

(Check one):

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing
 Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE CENTRAL COMPONENT AND WITH
ADDITIONAL RETAINING COMPONENT**

the specification of which (check one):

is attached hereto.
OR
 was filed on 01 December 2000 as PCT International Application Number
PCT/DE00/04299 and U.S. Serial No. 09/890,588.
 and was amended by PCT Article 19 Amendment on _____
(if applicable),
 and was amended by PCT Article 34 Amendment on _____
(if applicable).

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

100-1234567890 = 88506360

PRIORITY CLAIM

(Check one):

no such applications have been filed.
 such applications have been filed as follows

1) FOREIGN PRIORITY CLAIM: I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached Yes	No
299 21 168.1	DE	02 December 1999 (02.12.1999)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

2) PROVISIONAL PRIORITY CLAIM: I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Provisional Application Number(s)	Filing Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

3) U.S./PCT PRIORITY CLAIM: I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

POWER OF ATTORNEY:

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

James E. Cockfield	Reg. No. <u>19,162</u>	Megan E. Williams	Reg. No. <u>43,270</u>
Thomas V. Smurzynski	Reg. No. <u>24,798</u>	Nicholas P. Trianio III	Reg. No. <u>36,397</u>
Ralph A. Loren	Reg. No. <u>29,325</u>	Jeremiah Lynch	Reg. No. <u>17,425</u>
Giulio A. DeConti, Jr.	Reg. No. <u>31,503</u>	David J. Rikkers	Reg. No. <u>43,882</u>
Ann Lampart Hammitt	Reg. No. <u>34,858</u>	Maria C. Laccotripe	Limited Recognition
Elizabeth A. Hanley	Reg. No. <u>33,505</u>		Under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b)
Amy E. Mandragouras	Reg. No. <u>36,207</u>	Debra J. Milasincic	Reg. No. <u>46,931</u>
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Send Correspondence to:

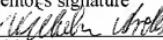
Anthony A. Laurentano, Lahive & Cockfield, LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, United States of America

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

Anthony A. Laurentano, (617) 227-7400

Wherefore I petition that letters patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the attached specification and claims, and hereby subscribe my name to said specification and claims and to the foregoing declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first inventor <u>Wilhelm ARDES</u>	
Inventor's signature 	Date <u>September 25, 01</u>
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Citizenship GERMANY	
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